

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - 4/18/19

In Attendance:

Joe Van Houten
Wally Pattyson
Gary Munkelt
Joe Krumenacker
Dan Wood
Andrea Susten
Stephanie Mason

Guests:

John Butler - Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA)
John Swenson - Carroll Engineering
John Simila - Township Intern

Edison Village Request For Holding Tanks

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sent Stephanie Mason a list of properties in the Edison Village requesting new holding tanks. Also sent to the Bucks County Health Department. This area has also been noted as a “hot spot” source of septic runoff. Recommended by the Board that this area be kept in mind as part of the updates to the 537 plan for evaluation.

John Butler noted that there may be additional properties, not noted on the provided map, that may also have no holding tanks or may still be on their original septic systems. He mentioned properties along 611 as an example. Mr. Butler noted that public records on septic systems are incomplete for the area and don't exist prior to 1970. Mr. Butler suggested that the Edison Village may need to be assessed for sewers, considering the unknown state of the some the properties in the village.

Board is currently waiting on feedback from DEP and the Bucks County Health Department before deciding on next steps.

Pebble Ridge Update

John Butler provided an update on the progress of the Pebble Ridge project. Construction is currently underway near the intersection of Almshouse Road and Militia Hill.

The project is currently 2-3 weeks behind schedule. The reason for this delay is due to an unexpectedly dense section of rock bed that is preventing construction crews from using

traditional excavation methods. A new “peg board” technique is being used to break the rock up. Blasting of the rock was mentioned, but is not being seriously considered at this point.

BCWSA is putting together a redesign of the system for residents along Almshouse and Militia Hill to use grinder pumps for their systems instead of gravity feeds. Due to the length of pipe required to make the gravity feed connections, it is expected that the change to grinder pumps will save money on the project in the long run. Residents impacted by the change of plans will be receiving letters from BCWSA informing them of the change.

The pump station for the project was left in poor condition after electrical work was done there. The crews involved were notified and will clean up the mess left behind as the pump station.

Feasibility Study for “Phase 2” of Sewer Expansion

John Swenson of Carroll Engineering joined the Advisory Board to discuss the feasibility study of installing sewers in the area deemed “Phase 2” of Doylestown Township. Prior to the meeting, members of the Board were provided with the feasibility study and a map of the area considered.

Mr. Swenson addressed some of the key findings of the study:

1. The cost per lot estimate is higher than in the Pebble Ridge/“Phase 1” project. This is due partly to the increased size of the lots in Phase 2 as opposed to Pebble Ridge.
2. The Sandywood and Hillcrest areas of Phase 2 would require grinder pumps. This covers approx 90 lots.
3. A section of “Phase 3” could be served by gravity lines connecting to the system installed in Phase 2. This would include the lots between Route 202 and Cherry Lane. Mr. Swenson suggested this area either be included in Phase 2 or the construction of the Phase 2 lines be made large enough to accommodate this area in the future.
4. The study noted that it could make sense to add the area surrounding the eastern tributary of the Neshaminy Creek to Phase 3 to take advantage of natural drainage. This area would include the St Lawrence Way and McCarty Drive neighborhoods. Members of the board suggested the possibility of partnering with the neighboring municipalities of Warwick and Buckingham.
5. BCWSA is expected to have capacity for Phase 2. However, Phase 3 may have BCWSA approaching or at current available capacity. This assessment may change based off actual results of a completed Phase 2.
6. Phase 2 and 3 would both flow to the Green Street treatment plant.
7. The total number of lots impacted in phase 2 would 476.
8. The estimated cost of the Phase 2 project would be between \$42,000 and \$50,000 per lot.

Grasso Property and Inclusion in Sewer Plans

Discussions were also with regard to the Grasso property on Phase 3. This property currently has access to water but not sewer. Stephanie Mason noted that the Grasso developers have recently submitted an amendment to their plans for the property to make it a senior living community. Part of that amendment is a proposal to build a large sewage collection system on property that would pump back to the Green Street facility, via a force main.

Mr. Butler suggested that the nearby neighborhoods to the Grasso property may also be able to drain to this location and be pumped back together. If this were to happen, the lines for the neighboring areas would likely have to be constructed at the same time as the Grasso system to maintain proper operational capacity of the system.

Stephanie Mason noted that the Grasso proposal is still currently a work in progress.

537 Plan Updates

Discussed the current state of the Township's 537 plan and that it is currently 20 years old. It was explained that a 537 plan is usually laid out in 3 phases: a 5 year plan, a 10 year plan and an "ultimate" plan for long term goals. The example was given that the Edison Village area would be a 5 year plan, Phase 2 would be a 10 year plan and Phase 3 would be an "ultimate" plan. (Please note that this was given as an example and is not an actual plan at this point.)

Stephanie Mason noted that the timeline for completing and laying out 537 plan is being driven by the fecal level results from our MS4 study. BCWSA will be completing the updated 537 for free and has been authorized by the Board of Supervisors to do so.

The Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board Going Forward

The Board decided that until an updated 537 is complete, this board currently has limited work to complete. While the 537 is being worked, the Board will focus on oversight of the Pebble Ridge project.

The Board voted to hold meetings every other month going forward until the 537 plan is complete. The next meeting of this board will be in June. When the 537 is complete, the board will reassess its meeting frequency.

Further discussion was held about how best to keep the residents of Pebble Ridge updated. The board will continue to monitor the BCWSA website to make sure updates on the Pebble Ridge project are regularly posted and that the terms being used are ones residents can understand. It was also suggested that a map of the current progress be posted to the township website. Dan Wood and Andrea Susten volunteered to handle this.

The meeting on May 16th 2019 has been cancelled. The next meeting of the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board will be on June 13th 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned.